

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 21-60 and 96-97 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:

a monitoring unit configured to monitor~~means for monitoring~~ at least one parameter related to the connection between said mobile station and said end element; and

a determining unit configured to determine~~means for determining~~ if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said ~~means for monitoring~~ unit.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to release said connection when the determining ~~means~~unit determines that the connection is to be released.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is arranged to release the connection between the network element and said mobile station.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.

5. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to send a request for the connection to be released to said mobile station.

6. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the end element sends a connection release command to said network element in response to the release request received by said network element, said network element controlling the release of said connection.

7. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said network element is arranged to send a release request to said mobile station in response to the release command received from said end element.

8. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to said end element advising that the connection has been released.

9. (Previously Presented) A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:

means for monitoring at least one parameter related to the connection between said mobile station and said element; and

means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time

since the last use of the connection, and said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

10. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.

11. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.

12. (Previously Presented) A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:

means for monitoring at least one parameter related to the connection between said mobile station and said end element; and

means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

13. (Previously Presented) A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:

means for monitoring at least one parameter related to the connection between said mobile station and said end element; and

means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

14. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the amount of updating information received in a given time from the mobile station is used as a measure of the movement of the mobile station.

15. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises URA updates.

16. (Previously Presented) A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:

means for monitoring at least one parameter related to the connection between said mobile station and said end element; and

means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

17. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 16, wherein said at least one parameter comprises associations of the mobile station with different network elements, and said determining means determines that the connection should be released if said monitoring means indicates that the mobile station is associated with a different network element.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 1, a mobile station and an end element.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) TheA network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said end element is SGSN.

22. (Currently Amended) TheA network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

23. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.

24. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

25. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring ~~unit-means~~ indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

26. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring ~~means-unit~~ indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

27. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring ~~means-unit~~ indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

28. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unitmeans determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unitmeans indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

29. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unitmeans determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring meansunit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

30. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining meansunit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring meansunit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

31. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining meansunit is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring meansunit.

32. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining meansunit is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmeans.

33. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unitmeans is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmeans.

34. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring ~~means~~ unit.

35. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit ~~means~~.

36. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unitmeans is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring ~~means~~unit.

37. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unitmeans is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unitmeans.

38. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said

determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

39. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

40. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

41. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit~~means~~.

42. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit~~means~~.

43. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit~~means~~.

44. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit~~means~~.

45. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit~~means~~.

46. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means~~unit is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit~~means~~.

47. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring ~~means~~unit.

48. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

49. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said

determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

50. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

51. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining ~~means-unit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

52. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unitmeans is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

53. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unitmeans is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

54. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining ~~meansunit~~ is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

55. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining meansunit is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

56. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unitmeans is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

57. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining meansunit is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unitmeans.

58. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

59. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

60. (Currently Amended) TheA network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said

determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

61.-76. (Canceled)

77. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 2, a mobile station and an end element.

78. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 3, a mobile station and an end element.

79. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 4, a mobile station and an end element.

80. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 5, a mobile station and an end element.

81. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 6, a mobile station and an end element.

82. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 7, a mobile station and an end element.

83. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 8, a mobile station and an end element

84. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 9, a mobile station and an end element.

85. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 10, a mobile station and an end element.

86. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 11, a mobile station and an end element.

87. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 12, a mobile station and an end element.

88. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 13, a mobile station and an end element.

89. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 14, a mobile station and an end element.

90. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 15, a mobile station and an end element.

91. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 16, a mobile station and an end element.

92. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 17, a mobile station and an end element.

93. (Cancelled)

94. (Cancelled)

95. (Cancelled).

96. (Currently Amended) TheA network as claimed in claim 21, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

97. (Currently Amended) The network element of claim 1, wherein said said at least one parameter comprises at least one of a state of the mobile station, movement of the mobile station, or the amount of communications between the mobile station and the radio network controller.

98. (Previously Presented) A radio network controller for use in a communication network, said radio network controller being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said radio network controller, said radio network controller comprising a processor arranged to monitor at least one parameter of the connection established between the mobile station and the end element and to determine if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

99. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

establishing a connection between a mobile station and an end element in a communication network through a radio network controller arranged between the mobile station and the end element;

monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the end element; and

determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

100. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 98, wherein said end element is a Serving General Packet Radio Service Support Node (SGSN).

101. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 100, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity and said processor is arranged to release the connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.